

AB.A1G4 BALTIC APHOTIC ROCK AND BOULDERS DOMINATED BY SOFT CORALS (ALCYONACEA)

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic bottoms in the aphotic zone with at least 90 % coverage of rock, boulders or stones of more than 63 mm in diameter. Epibenthic cnidarians cover at least 10% of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic cnidarians, soft corals constitute at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is rock and/or boulders.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Alcyonium digitatum, *Swiftia rosea*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Kattegat and Belt Sea

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

- 2.1 Rocky bottoms
 - 2.1.1 Soft rock
 - 2.1.1.1 Aphotic zone
 - 2.1.2 Solid rock
 - 2.1.2.1 Aphotic zone
- 2.2 Stony bottoms
 - 2.2.1 Aphotic zone